Colorado Springs goes 'Lavender'

Tru Loved

Ready?OK!

Ciao

World Unseen

By Alma Cremonesi, Pikes Peak Lavender Film Festival Director

The Pikes Peak Lavender Film Festival has thrived into its ninth year in Colorado Springs – of all places. This gem of a film festival has made its mark in helping to give Colorado Springs a balanced image. The festival producers would like to ask our GLBT sisters and brothers in Denver to finally forgive Colorado Springs for Amendment 2 and realize that we are no longer the hate city. In fact, we're the only city in Colorado to host a GLBT film festival.

The older areas of Colorado Springs, where the festival is located, are "blue" politically and elected State Representative Michael Merrifield, who will be welcoming our audience this year. Inexpensive motels and four-star hotels close to the venue are available, and the scenery is beautiful. A trip to the film festival will be a special treat for all. Just a short drive away for non-Springs residents, the film festival makes a great weekend destination.

The 9th Pikes Peak Lavender Film Festival opens on Friday, September 19 with a catered reception with complimentary wine, and then launches into a fabulous weekend of diverse and fascinating cinema followed by after-parties on Saturday and Sunday. Once again, the festival has a wonderful lineup of remarkable character-driven films that any movie buff would be compelled to experience.

In the Opening Night feature, three women meet in a steam room and all find love in unexpected places. *Steam*, directed by Kyle Schickner, tells the stories of a single mother (Ally Sheedy) struggling to find her voice, a widow (Ruby Dee) who is rejuvenated by late life romance and a college-age lesbian (Kate Siegel) breaking free from her conservative family's restraints. They find solace in a steam room, where they commiserate wtih each other. Though the film focuses on the three women, it includes strong male characters. Kyle Schickner and Kate Siegel are flying in to join our festivities.

The entire festival has nine great shorts and nine wonderful features and makes for a terrific mini-escape from the confines of your world. For instance, you can travel to Germany and Turkey in the thriller-mystery *The Edge of Heaven*, awarded Best Screenplay at Cannes this year.

Or you can explore the realms of adolescence and gain poignant insights into what it means to grow up gay. We chose three films about young people thriving in the homophobic world of

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9th Annual Pikes Peak Lavender Film Festival

Friday-Saturday, September 19-21

6 p.m. Friday: 9th Annual Pikes Peak Lavender Film Festival Opening Night Reception — Annually bringing the best in GLBT cinema to the Pikes Peak region, the Lavender Film Festival kicks off the weekend with an opening night reception featuring catered hors d'oeuvres, complimentary beer and wine, extraordinary film and award-winning directors and actors. Armstrong Theatre.

Films

Friday, September 19

8:00 p.m. "How Do I Say This? I'm Gay" (5 min.)
Immediately following is **"Steam"** (120 min.)
Armstrong Theatre

Saturday, September 20

At 12:45 p.m. **"Look Again"** (7 min.)
Immediately following is **"The Edge of Heaven"** (122 min.)
3:45 p.m. **"By the Way Bob"** (5 min.)
Immediately following is **"The Sensei"** (103 min.)
Edith Kinney Gaylord Cornerstone Arts Center

6:15 p.m. **"Happenstance"** (8 min.)
Immediately following is **"Tru Loved"** (99 min.)
8:30 p.m. **"Pat's First Kiss"** (4 min.)
Immediately following is **"Ciao"** (87 min.)
Armstrong Theatre

Sunday, September 21

Noon: **"Hello My Name is Herman"** (10 min.)
Immediately following is **"Call Me Troy"** (100 min.)
2:30 p.m. **"Babysitting Andy"** (11 min.)
Immediately following is **"Ready? OK!"** (91 min.)
Edith Kinney Gaylord Cornerstone Arts Center

5:00 p.m. **"Sunspots"** (10 min.)
Immediately following is **"The World Unseen"** (103 min.)
7:45 p.m. **"No Bikini"** (9 min.)
Immediately following is **"Ruby Blue"** (108 min.)
Armstrong Theatre

For full movie descriptions and information on purchasing a film festival pass, visit www.pplff.org

$10/film, $5/film for students, or $5/film with a CC ID; tickets at Worner Campus Center Information Desk, 902 N. Cascade Ave., Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 2506 E. Bijou, The Underground, Nevada and Kiowa St., The Spice of Life, 727 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs.

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